

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A compression strut, comprising
  - a pre-loaded extension spring (1) having
    - 5       -- a first end, and
    - a second end;
  - a damper (4),
    - which is disposed inside the extension spring (1),
    - which has a housing (6) that is supported on the first end of the ex-
      - 10       tension spring (1), and
      - which has a piston rod (8) that is extended from the housing (6)  
          and movable over a damping range a and directed into the exten-  
          sion spring (1); and
  - an operating element (5),
    - 15       -- which comprises an actuating tappet (11),
      - which is joined to the second end of the extension spring (1),  
              and
      - which is movable over a total range c that includes the damp-  
              ing range a of the piston rod (8) and a no-load range b of the  
20       actuating tappet (11).
2. A compression strut according to claim 1, wherein  $b > a$  applies to the  
damping range a to no-load range b ratio.
- 25 3. A compression strut according to claim 1, wherein the actuating tappet  
(11) is disposed for displaceable guidance in a guide tube (10).
4. A compression strut according to claim 3, wherein the guide tube (10) is  
coaxially joined to the housing (6) of the damper (4).

5. A compression strut according to claim 1, wherein it is longitudinally adjustable.

5     6. A compression strut according to claim 5,  
      wherein a first and a second abutment (13, 14) are mounted on the first and  
      second end of the extension spring (1), with a first and a second holding  
      bush (15, 16) being disposed in the first and second abutment (13, 14) for  
      adjustment by threads (17, 18) that work in opposite directions; and  
10    wherein the damper (4) bears against one of the first and second holding  
      bush (15) and the actuating tappet (11) bears against one of the second and  
      first holding bush (16).

      7. A compression strut according to claim 1, wherein the damper (4) is a  
15    hydraulic damper.